

BRIEFS

DEADLINE SET FOR CAC NOMINATIONS

July 15 is the deadline for submitting resumes for the position of executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC), according to search committee chairman Wayne Kimbrough, pastor of Calvary Church, Greenwood.

The CAC, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, provides Biblical perspectives on moral, social, and ethical issues. Jimmy D. Porter retired April 30, after serving as CAC's executive director-treasurer for 15 years.

Resumes should be mailed to Wayne Kimbrough at 912 North Park Circle, Greenwood, MS 38930, or emailed to wkimbroughcbc@yahoo.com.

FULL SBC COVERAGE IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

As this issue of The Baptist Record was going to press, the 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention was convening in Columbus, Oh. Complete coverage of the meeting will be presented in next week's issue of the Record, dated June 25.

NO BAPTIST RECORD ISSUE ON JULY 2

Due to postal regulations that limit publication of The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the newspaper will not print during the week that includes July 2. The next issue of the Record will be dated July 9. The deadline for news items to be published in the issue of July 9 is July 2.

UPCOMING

NEXT WEEK IN THE RECORD:

- » When the church potluck dinner goes really wrong.
- » Has history passed us by? Commentary with Bob Stith
- » Did IMB policy revisions pass muster with messengers?

Lottie Moon staying strong

Offering finishes close to record

RICHMOND, Va. (BP and local reports) — The 2014 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions totaled \$153,002,394 — almost edging out the highest total ever in the 126-year history of the offering.

While the 2014 total was slightly less than one million dollars, or less than one percent, short of 2013's all-time record offering of \$154 million, the 2014 total surpassed the second-highest total, \$150.4 million in 2007, by more than \$2.5 million.

"We have so much grace from God to celebrate in this offering," said David Platt, president of the Richmond, Va.-based International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"This is the second-largest Lottie Moon offering ever. It will supply more than half of our total IMB budget. We are deeply grateful for the faith-



LOTTIE'S CHILDREN — A prompting from God and the prayers and support of Southern Baptists through the Lottie Moon offering sent missionary Maridith Lane (right) in 2013 to the embattled new African nation of South Sudan, where 400,000 people have not yet heard the Gospel. She serves there, despite the dangers, with her husband Robert and their two young children. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)

fulness and obedience of the countless churches and individuals who have given sacrificially to this offering.

The IMB budget for 2015 is \$301.1 million. Every penny of the gifts given to the Lottie Moon offering each year goes directly to missionary support.

Supporting one fully funded missionary overseas costs an average of \$141 per day, or about \$51,000 per year.

"Because they love God more than the pleasures, possessions, and pursuits of this world, and because they want to glorify His name among all nations, we'll

be able to partner with them and missionaries sent from Southern Baptist churches around the world to take the Gospel to people who have never heard it," Platt said.

see OFFERING on p. 6

American pastor beaten again by inmates in Iranian prison

TEHRAN, Iran (BP and local reports) — With his wife's June 2 congressional testimony fresh in the minds of his Muslim torturers, American pastor Saeed Abedini has again been "viciously" beaten by fellow inmates in the Iranian prison where he is being held for his Christian faith, the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) reported.



ABEDINI

Fellow prisoners attacked Abedini June 3 as he attempted to leave his cell, punching him in the face and demolishing a table he used while studying and reading, reported ACLJ, which is legally representing the Abedini family. Prison guards stopped the attack and a prison doctor determined Abedini did not have any broken bones.

Naghme Abedini, Saeed's wife, explained in a June 10 Facebook post, "Saeed's father was not able to see Saeed last week because of a holiday in Iran, but today he was truly shaken to learn of the beating that Saeed had en-

dured. Saeed's father was also treated horribly and harassed by the prison guards and staff and could only visit Saeed for a short time."

Saeed Abedini, 35, was born in Iran and is a naturalized American citizen. He was active in the house church movement in his native country. Naghme and their two children live in Idaho.

In her testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Relations Committee, Naghme Abedini said U.S. negotiators should discuss her husband and

see PRISON on p. 6

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JUN 23 2015



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Got a spare \$19.25 million?

You know. Here we go again: "Have you heard? Proctor and Gamble is full of Satan worshippers. The company president said so, on television! Don't believe it? Just look at their logo!"

A few years ago, statement similar to that cost four Utah residents \$19.25 million. That's the amount Proctor and Gamble, the nation's largest consumer products company, was awarded by a federal jury in Salt Lake City.

Unless you have a similar amount of money from which you don't mind soon being parted, perhaps you should take heed.

First of all, the age-old rumor about Satanism, Proctor and Gamble, and its famous moon-and-stars logo is a lie. Pure and simple. If you repeat it, you're a liar. If you're a Christian and you repeat it, you'd better check up on what the Bible has to say about false witness.

The mess in Utah began when Randy L. Haugen circulated another person's Satanism rumor about Proctor and Gamble through an automated phone message system. As distribution of the rumor multiplied beyond anything Haugen probably could have imagined, a version of it inevitably turned up at Proctor and Gamble headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Companies take their public image seriously. "This is about protecting our reputation," Jim Johnson, Proctor and Gamble's chief legal counsel, told Associated Press.

Another rumor that never seems to die is the old saw that the late, famed atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair is working to get all Christian programming removed from television. Again, not true. Such a feat would be hard to accomplish from the grave.

The latest variation of the endless O'Hair tale involves James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family. So rampant was that rumor that the Focus on

the Family web site carried a special disclaimer that Dobson and Focus on the Family are not involved in any way in authenticating and distributing the O'Hair rumor.

Simply put, you can't believe everything you hear and read — especially on the Internet. It is a rare week that the offices of The Baptist Record fail to receive a frantic e-mail or phone call about the latest threat to Christianity. All of them — all — turn out to be rumors.

Christians should be smarter than that. It does not elevate our Kingdom work nor glorify our Savior to spread baseless rumors and indulge ear-tickling lies. Such behavior actually diminishes our witness by proving that we're no different than the world when it comes to truth, gossip, and rumor-mongering.

This is especially the case when there are so many ways open to us to check out these rumors. The first way is to visit the company's web site or call their toll-free customer service telephone number. Chances are, you won't be the first call they receive.

Secondly, there are many good Internet sites (not necessarily Christian) that research and refute such rumors. Two such sites are snopes.com, and urbanlegends.about.com. Anyone with a computer and two minutes of free time can avail themselves of these free services.

Thirdly, the mass media are frequently full of articles and reports that explode these rumors. All we need to do is pay attention.

Don't fall for these rumors, many of which are undoubtedly designed and promulgated by detractors with the intention of making Christians look bad. Any amount of time we devote to such fruitless activities takes away from the time we could be accomplishing Kingdom work.

If we're not focused on Jesus and Kingdom work, then why are we Christians?

Nothing new under sun

It's common for proponents of same sex marriage to claim that Scripture condemns only promiscuous, predatory, and pedophilic homosexual behavior — as if the biblical authors had no knowledge of consensual, adult, monogamous homosexuality.

In some cases, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) advocates state explicitly that the ancient world was ignorant of modern forms of homosexuality. That claim is false, and believers should be prepared to engage same sex marriage advocates in the ongoing cultural debate.

The suggestion that Scripture doesn't condemn modern homosexuality is one component of the controversy surrounding Weatherly Heights Church in Huntsville, AL, and its alleged approval of same sex unions. Weatherly Heights Church pastor David Freeman asserted in a 2013 sermon that the Bible does not address "adult, loving, monogamous, same sex relationships."

Believers have wrongly asserted blanket condemnations of homosexual behavior based on Scripture passages dealing only with promiscuity, predatory behavior, and abuse, Freeman said.

Weatherly Heights Church was disfellowshipped from Madison Association March 16 by a vote of the body's executive board. The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions withdrew fellowship from Weatherly Heights Church on May 15, acting on behalf of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, gathering at the site of the SBC annual meeting in Columbus, Oh., is expected to take action on behalf of the SBC on June 15 as this issue of The Baptist Record is going to press.

Pastor Danny Cortez made an argument similar to Freeman in September when the SBC Executive Committee withdrew fellowship from his New Heart Community Church in La Mirada, Ca., for its approval of same sex marriage.

Before Freeman, Cortez, and Vines, the argument that Old and New Testament authors had in mind only dominating and violent forms of homosexuality dates back at last 33 years to Robin Scroggs' book, *The New Testament and Homosexuality*.

Is this claim true? In a word, no. A forthcoming book from B&H Academic titled,



Guest opinion with David Roach

Unchanging Witness: The Consistent Christian Teaching on Homosexuality, identifies numerous references in antiquity to adult, consensual, and in some cases monogamous homosexuality, including same sex marriage. Among the references cited by authors Donald Fortson and Rollin Grams:

■ The tomb of Egypt's Pharaoh Niuserre from approximately 2600 B.C. pictures two of the monarch's male officials holding hands, embracing, and touching noses — but this is a typical Egyptian way to depict kissing. A rendering of Pharaoh Ikhnaton some 1200 years later pictures the monarch as having a feminine shape and sitting nude with his son-in-law as the two stroke each other's chins.

While the proper interpretation of these images is debated, they may confirm Leviticus 18:3's statement that Egyptians practiced the behaviors condemned in that chapter, including homosexual acts.

■ In the first century A.D., the Jewish "Apocalypse of Abraham" described men expressing sexual passion for one another.

■ Plutarch, a Greek author contemporaneous with the New Testament writers, spoke of both "unwilling" and "willing" sexual unions between men.

■ A second- or third-century Jewish writing titled, *Sifra*, applied Leviticus 18:3's condemnation of homosexual acts to "a man married to a man and a woman [to] a woman."

■ Juvenal, a first- and second-century Roman satirist, wrote of homosexual marriage though it is not clear whether he knew of the practice or merely believed society was heading toward it.

■ Sextus Empiricus wrote around A.D. 200 that a story of "burning love" between

see ROACH on p. 7

THE Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Amy Massey
amassey@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

**Baptist Record
Advisory Committee:**
Camille Anding, Etta
T. R. Dorsey, Winona
Whit Lewis, New Albany
Derrick Wilson, Kosciusko
Carolyn Reeves, Oxford
Garland Boyd, Brookhaven

Postmaster:
Send changes of
address to: The Baptist
Record, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS
39205-0530.

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to:** The Editor, Baptist
Record, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS
39205-0530.
Tel: (601) 968-3300
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



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Magna Carta: turning point in world history

LONDON (BP and local reports)

— June 15 marked the 800th anniversary of English King John's seal on the Magna Carta, one of the most significant documents in the history of democracy.

While only three of the Magna Carta's original clauses are still part of British law, this canon was foundational in shaping human rights and personal freedoms — including the freedom to practice religion. It was even written by Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury and titular head of what was then known as the English Church and is now known as the Church of England.

In the U.S. centuries after its origination, the Magna Carta inspired the Founding Fathers and led to multiple governing documents including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

One example is the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which reads, "Nor shall any persons be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law." That sounds much like the Magna Carta's 39th clause.

In 13th-century England, King John wasn't the most popular ruler. His frivolous spending and lack of concern for the people led to heavy taxation. Upset by his selfish monarchical style, powerful barons demanded something be done.

Along with several bishops, the barons drafted 63 clauses that helped rein in King John, claiming all free men — even the monarch — were subject to the law.

At Runnymede, England, in 1215, King John placed his seal of approval on the document that has forever shaped the relationship between governing powers and free men in democratic societies. It has been reported the king was none too happy about the political pressure brought to bear on him to sign the groundbreaking document.

Translated from its original Latin, the Magna Carta (which

Worth praying about

■ Pray for global, national, and local government leaders as they make decisions about rights and freedoms.

■ Ask God to bring freedom to those who are oppressed by their own governments.

■ Thank God for reigning with both justice and grace.

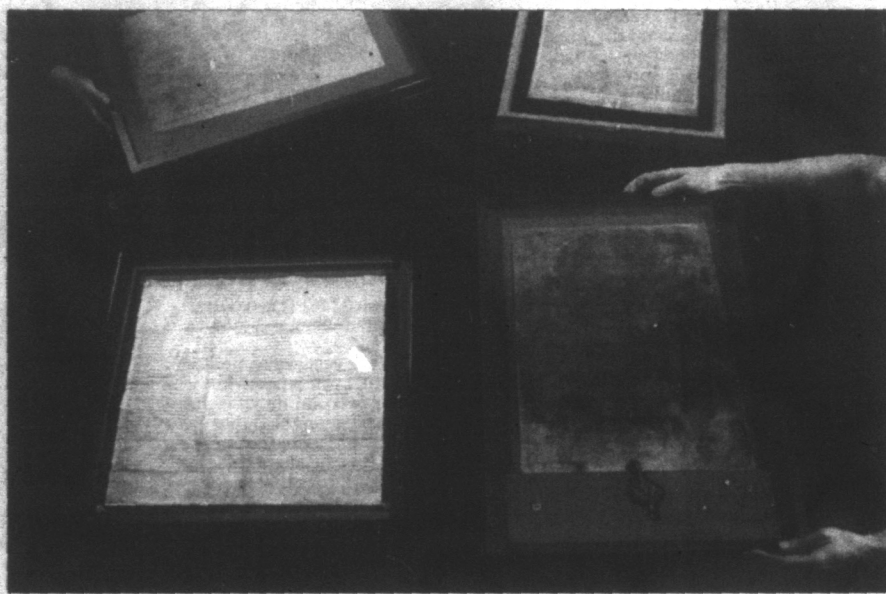
means "Great Charter" in Latin) states, "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice."

Applied, it meant every free man had the right to a trial by a jury of his peers.

Rebecca Jones, a high school history teacher in North Carolina, said that while Americans may not bear about the Magna Carta as much as the U.S. Constitution or the Bill of Rights, it is just as valuable.

"The Magna Carta is one of those old, dusty documents that my students are always really frustrated that they have to learn about because 'it doesn't apply to me,'" Jones said. "However, I think that we have to understand that this document is just as important to the foundation of the American political system as our own documents are."

"Those ideas of limiting that power of the king would in turn influence the writing of America's own founding government. It was also one of the first times in European history that we see a limit on absolute monarchy, something that wouldn't happen in France until the revolution in 1789 or in Russia until 1918.



CELEBRATING MAGNA CARTA — The British Library in London brought together the four existing original Magna Carta manuscripts from King John's reign for the first time during a three-day 'unification event' earlier this year. (BP photo courtesy of the British Library)

"It's very important for me to show my students the progression of representative government throughout world history, and eventually to how it would influence our own."

Mark Durfee agrees. The U.S. history teacher in Texas says the Magna Carta was the "foundational influence" that led to the English Bill of Rights of 1689. In North America, it largely impacted:

■ The Virginia House of Burgesses in 1619.

■ The Mayflower Compact in 1620.

■ The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut in 1639 — "the first written constitution in English Colonial America," Durfee points out.

■ The Declaration of Independence in 1776.

■ The Articles of Confederation in 1777.

This all led up to the drafting, signing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1787 and 1788 and the Bill of Rights in 1789 and 1791, Durfee said.

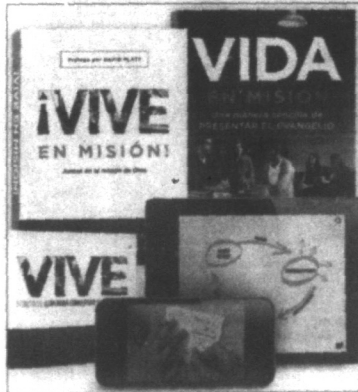
Anniversary celebrations in the United States occurred as early as November 2014. The Library of Congress hosted a copy of the Magna Carta for 10 weeks, along with other documents that depicted "how a number of the most basic principles of the U.S. Constitution — consent of the governed, the right to a trial by jury, the right to due process of law, freedom from unlawful imprisonment and limited government under the law — can be traced to Magna Carta," according to the Library of Congress website.

The American Bar Association (ABA) will be hosting 600-800 U.S. lawyers to commemorate the anniversary at the monument the ABA erected at Runnymede in 1957. Queen Elizabeth II also will make her way to the location where the Magna Carta was born.

The British Library exhibition — Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy — is open to the public through Sept. 1 and showcases two of the four existing original copies of the document from King John's reign.

The struggle for religious liberty has been in progress for 800 years. At a time of escalating religious liberty issues both domestic and worldwide, what started on the fields of Runnymede in 1215 remains relevant to the present day.

Spanish language evangelism tool offered free of charge



ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Alpharetta, Ga., released a free Spanish version of the 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide during the SBC annual meeting earlier this week in Columbus, Oh.

"It has been a priority to provide more Spanish resources," said Al Gilbert, NAMB vice president of evangelism. "I'm thankful that we are now able to offer these evangelism tools to our Hispanic churches. It's our prayer that pastors will use this to train their members on how to turn everyday discussions about brokenness into conversations about Christ."

The Spanish 3 Circles guide is available without charge through the end of 2015.

The guide is part of an entire suite of resources designed to help believers live

on mission, and all are available in Spanish for the first time. The resources include the Life On Mission book, video tutorials, a printed 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide, and a 3 Circles app that is available for both Apple and Android devices. The Life On Mission Study Guide is also available from LifeWay.

The 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide, was developed by Jimmy Scroggins, pastor of First Church in West Palm Beach, Fl., to train and mobilize the church for personal evangelism in today's context. The tool provides a simple way for believers to effectively share the Gospel through an easy circle drawing that can be done simply on a napkin.

The app version is just as simple and includes Scripture references to accompany each point.

"We have been amazed at how many individuals and churches have utilized the 3 Circles since we introduced it last year in Baltimore," NAMB president Kevin Ezell said. "The Spanish translation means even more people can use this resource to share Christ. It works with anyone, anywhere, and we hope every Southern Baptist will learn how to use it so they can be ready for the opportunities God brings every day."

The Spanish edition was written in standard Spanish, leaving out any slang, to fit as many Spanish-speaking contexts as possible. The Life On Mission suite will allow the 3,000-plus Hispanic Southern Baptist churches in North America to better engage their members in their own context to point everyday conversations toward Christ.

I recently encountered a man who was out walking his dogs. Three dogs as a matter of fact, all of them on leashes. Two of them were larger than average size dogs. One somewhat sheep looking dog, the other one a German shepherd mix and a third one was about the size of the fellow's foot and looked like he had several mixtures in him. I spoke to the fellow and said, "You've got a handful, haven't ya?" He said, "Yeah, I do. The two big ones are fine but the little one is always trouble." Sure enough, just over a few steps I saw the little guy was the problem. He was running in and out under the other two dogs and around back of the fellow who was trying to corral them. Right there almost on command he started being trouble. As we parted and walked off, the man stumbled as he almost tripped and fell on the leash that went to the little dog because he was darting around again.

I went on my way hoping that poor fellow made it to where he was going with the dogs and thinking about the words of Solomon who said that it's the little foxes that ruin the vines (Song of Sol. 2:15). No doubt Solomon was talking about a vineyard that had grapes hanging in clusters. While the big foxes were out eating other things and getting into other stuff, the little foxes can come in and ruin a good cluster of grapes. It is also true that Solomon was also probably trying to convey a wonderful spiritual truth that people need to be alert, aware, and attentive to the little things in their lives that could go wrong and ruin all the big things.

We see it all the time. It's just one small thing that begins a downhill slide and a lot of other things create a di-



The Trouble with Little Dogs

lemma in a person's life. It is true and genuine insight to understand that it's the first drink that begins the road to alcoholism. It's the first experimentation with drugs that can set you on the course that can ruin your life. It is the first dollar or quarter gambled that can capture you in an addiction that can ruin you financially. It is the small things. It is the beginning of things that lead in time to great sadness.

It is so interesting to stop and think about the fact that often in our spiritual lives there are what people think are little sins that begin or those things that people see as just small and insignificant that become ruination to us. Take just a moment to think about some little things that have crept into your life. Maybe little sins. It's interesting how we think some sins are small and some are big. We refer to a little white lie and a big black lie and the truth is that the little white lie may be more detrimen-

tal than the big monster of a lie. A lie is wrong, but if you think that because it's small and on the margins of life and insignificant, you are exactly wrong.

Maybe just a little attitude has crept into your life. A bad attitude toward somebody or something and you just let it live and grow and sit around in the fringes of your mind and worse around your heart and you've developed a growing bad attitude toward a fellow worker or friend or family member or your church or just people in general. It would be wise to check it out and do something about it like confess and let God remove it.

Maybe you have let one of the little sins of the flesh become a toy in your mental processes to the point that more and more it has become a part of your life and more and more you realize what shouldn't be there has become a constant member of your mental family. It's time to take action and stop the little

dog from running around and tripping you everywhere you turn.

It could be that the little thing that is a part of your life is just silence; being silent when you should be speaking. Now I recognize that more often than not, we're speaking when we should be silent, but sometimes when it comes to speaking up for the Lord or the things that are true and right, even for things that are encouraging and helpful, we just stay silent. James said, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). Sometimes we let little sins of our disconnectedness, quietness, lack of encouragement and blessing toward others to creep in.

How long has it been since you have written a note to someone who has blessed your life? How long has it been since you have talked with someone you see all the time and have grown to just take them and their care for you for granted and you've done nothing? That little silent creature has become part of your life maybe has messed up some things around you but more than that have kept you from being open and caring to share with somebody else. Little dogs are like that and they'll mess up the big things.

So today try this. Whatever the little dog is that is creating havoc in your life, deal with it. Either tie him up and leave him out of your life or be plain, clear, and authoritative to tell him he can't run your life. God will help you and you will not only be blessed; you can be a blessing.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Vacation Bible School



GRACE CROSSING CHURCH, MADISON, held its first Vacation Bible School recently with a high attendance for the week of 188 children and 154 adults.



WILLIAMSVILLE CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, recently held its VBS. Shown are Anne Plunkett and other leaders with some of the children.



FREDONIA CHURCH, NEW ALBANY, honored Rose Weeden June 7 for her 16 years service as VBS director. She has been directing or teaching VBS for the last 45 consecutive years.

Bible Drill



WILLIAMSVILLE CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, recognizes its Bible drillers, shown with leaders Cindy Smith, Jimmy Williamson, and Lenita Gentry.



CENTER CHURCH, ATTALA COUNTY, recognizes its Bible drillers.

In other VBS News:

► **Flowood Church, Flowood:** June 21 - 25, 6 - 8:30 p.m., ages 3 - 6th grade. Register at www.flowoodbaptistchurch.org.

flowoodbaptistchurch.org.

► **Grace Church, Decatur:** June 22 - 26, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., ages 3 - 6th grade.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 18, 2015

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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2015

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and registration, please contact:

Cindy Heimbach, 662-417-3944 or cindyheimbach@msn.com
or Paula Smith—601-292-3336 or psmith@mbcb.org

A Ministry of the MS WMU at the MBCB
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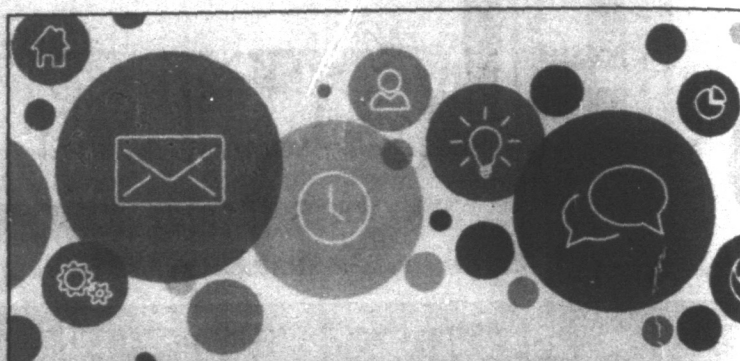


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plan may be found here:

<http://www.mbccb.org/womans-missionary-union/prayer/>

Contact Tammy Anderson of the MS WMU for advice:
601-292-3323 or tanderson@mbccb.org

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JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW

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BLUE MOUNTAIN

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HATTIESBURG

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015
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CLINTON

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William Carey - Daniel Caldwell
Garaywa - Wayne VanHorn

Provided by your Cooperative Program and your
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Sunday School & Small Groups Team, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
If you need more information or assistance with registration, contact
Carolyn Day, 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 291 or 601-292-3291, cday@mbcb.org

NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTORS SEMINAR

September 26 @ 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Clinton

Registration cost is \$39 per person with LifeWay Christian Resources.
Register at: <http://www.lifeway.com/Event/Leadership-Training-National-Sunday-School-Director-Seminar-2015-Clinton-MS>

This seminar will develop skills and plans to:

- Build a growing Sunday School focused on its mission and purpose
- Develop an organization and enlist leadership to build a growing Sunday School
- Lead teachers to teach for spiritual transformation
- Leave with a step-by-step strategy for leading your Sunday School

Conference is designed to:

- Equip Sunday School directors to serve effectively in all areas of Sunday School work
- Deliver practical tools for all aspects of Sunday School work
- Facilitate opportunities to network with other Sunday School directors
- Build team spirit among the Sunday School director, minister of education, pastor, and division and department directors

For more information on registration and a SPECIAL REIMBURSEMENT contact
the Sunday School/Small Groups Dept. of the MBCB at 800-748-1651,
Ext. 291, or 601-292-3291, or cday@mbcb.org

2015 STATE SENIOR RALLY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
CROSSGATES BC, BRANDON
(\$1 AT THE DOOR)

Featuring: Jenny Nolen, Purvis



MISSISSIPPI WMW Church Missions Leadership Training

Missions Leadership Training
for church leaders will be
offered in 3 locations.

Conferences will be offered
for all age-level organizations,
including RA and Challengers.

Women's Ministry
conferences will be offered at
Growing Churches and AMC.
WMU Ministry and general
missions interest conferences
will also be offered.

July 9
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Main Street BC, Hattiesburg

August 7-8
Women's Ministry at 7:30 p.m., Friday; Age-level plus
Women's Missions & Ministry at 9:30 a.m., Saturday
Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

August 21-22
5:00 p.m., Friday - 12:30 p.m. (lunch), Saturday
Annual Missions Celebration
with WMU Annual Meeting (AMC)
Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton

For more information contact the MS WMU office at the MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 323.



MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, September 19, 2015
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Clinton, MS



MISSISSIPPI PARENTS' MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

Friday-Saturday, September 18-19, 2015
2:00 p.m. Friday - 12:30 p.m. Saturday
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, Clinton, MS

For registration and more information contact Paula
Smith - 601-292-3336, E-mail psmith@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

June 19 – July 9, 2015

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age..." Titus 2:11-12 (ESV)

Pray for: **Guy DeMars**, missionary ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination.

Pray for: **Thomas & Keeri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Alvin & Mary Doyle**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through member care.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Sheila Flowers**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through administration.

Pray for: **Robert & Margaret Fortenberry**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through general evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Gloria Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through media promotion/consultation.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank & Phoebe Harrison**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hathcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Bonnie Hearon**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Raymond & Cynthia Hodgins**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through sports evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffery & Liesa Holeman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Janet Holloway**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Melinda Kyzar**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through personalization, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination & evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Unveiled


Women's Retreat

October 9-10, 2015
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

Our theme, "Unveiled" comes from 2 Corinthians 3:18, with prayers this will be an enriching get-away for women of all ages. Cyndi Grace is our featured speaker with Mary Moak leading in worship and praise.

\$25 plus housing and meals

Contact the MS WMU at 800-748-1651, Ext. 319 or visit
<http://www.mbc.org/event/womens-retreat/>



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DINNER

THURSDAY | AUGUST 20 | 6:30 P.M.

North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood

PASTORS, STAFF, CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS, FINANCIAL/BUDGET CHAIRMEN AND SPOUSES
DR. FUTRAL, SPEAKER

NO COST, BUT YOU MUST RSVP TO LISA LEAVELL AT 601-292-3347 OR LLEAVELL@MBCB.ORG BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 14.

RICK BLYTHE, DIRECTOR OF CP/STEWARDSHIP PROMOTION

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THE STEWARDSHIP/CP PROMOTION DEPT. OF THE MBCB AT 800-748-1651, EXT. 347, OR 601-292-3347.

HOUSE TOPS

BIBL iO CIPHER

MROE DRHZZ UKM ECK CKM CP MRO

DEBHQCKQOD: EOH, MRO MSAO

JCAOMR, MRHM TRCDLOW YSZ-

ZOMR ECK TSZZ MRSBY MRHM RO

NCOMR QCN DOWLSJO.

XCRB-DSFMOOB: MTC

Clue: T = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos 9:2

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

MS POSITIONS

PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH IN WOODLAND, MS SEES A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please send resumes to Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 906 CR 416, Woodland, MS 39776 or e-mail to lanapepper@aol.net.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, A SMALL COUNTRY CHURCH BETWEEN DREW AND RULEVILLE, MISS. IN SUNFLOWER COUNTY, IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 249, Drew, Miss. 38737.

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBUS, MS (EAST CENTRAL MS) IN SEARCH OF BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR. Resumes may be submitted to 6080 Hwy. 45 North, Columbus, MS 39705.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, MCCOMB, IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. This person should be able to hold on to traditional elements of worship while moving to a more contemporary style. Please send resumes to cbcmccomb@yahoo.com.

BUCATUNNA BAPTIST CHURCH IN CLARKE COUNTY IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR EITHER BI-VOCATIONAL OR FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to: 10806 CRS14, Meridian, MS 39301

PART-TIME STUDENT MINISTER NEEDED AT EAST COLUMBIA BAPTIST CHURCH IN COLUMBIA, MS. Please send resumes to: Personnel Committee, 385 Columbia Purvis Road, Columbia, MS 39429, or email to tim@eastcolumbiabaptistchurch.com.

SMITHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Please send resume to Smithville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 52, Smithville, MS 38870

THE MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN SMITHDALE, MS IS CURRENTLY RECEIVING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please send resumes to mtolivebaptistchurch@live.com or mail to: MOCB, 5599 MS Hwy 570, Smithdale, MS 39664

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH, LIBERTY IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please send resumes to: Liberty Baptist Church, ATTN: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 73, Liberty, MS 39645 or email to lgene@libertybaptistchurch.biz.

NEEDED: FULL TIME OR BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN AT ASHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH IN ASHLAND, MS. Send resumes to Mr. Stanley Poff, 285 Carter Flats, Ashland, MS 38603 or email to stanleypoff@yahoo.com

CLASSIFIEDS

MULLINS STATION BAPTIST CHURCH IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR. Mail resumes, along with any audio CDs or website address with a link to view a sample sermon to Search Committee, Mullins Station Baptist Church, 1170 Mullins Station Rd., Memphis TN 38134 or e-mail to susan@msbcmemphis.org.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$95/night and Condo \$75/night. Contact 832-922-0401 or E-mail: pdw4780@att.net for information and booking.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

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HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, MERIDIAN. DESIGN, FABRICATION, REPAIR. heidbergstainedglass.com or call 800-366-2705.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners, lowest prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

ERLC releases 'Protecting Your Ministry' legal manual

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) has collaborated with a leading legal advocacy organization to provide guidance for churches and other institutions in the face of the advance of so-called "sexual liberty" and same sex marriage.

ERLC and Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) in Scottsdale, Az., have published *Protecting Your Ministry*, a 44-page legal manual designed to equip Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and other evangelical churches and institutions with legal protection against sexual orientation and gender identity lawsuits.

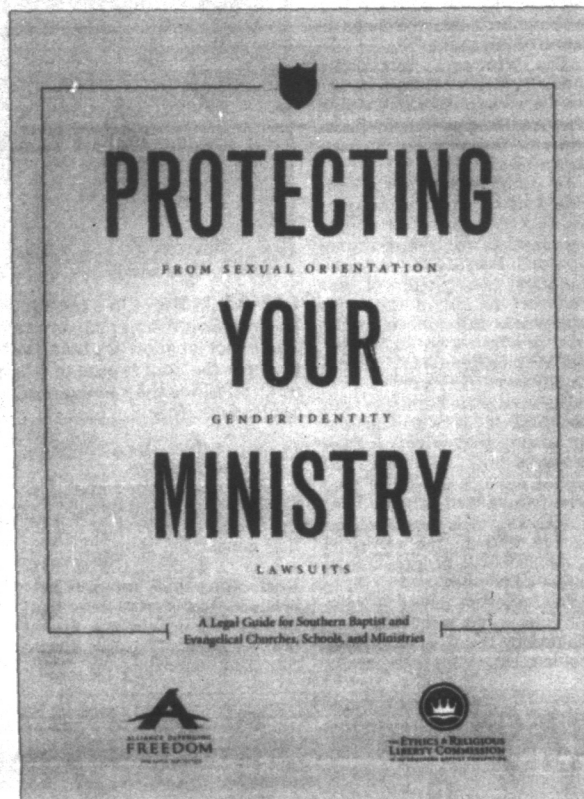
The manual includes checklists to guide Christian institutions on maximizing their religious liberty protections under the law and maintaining their freedom to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus. It also provides sample documents such as a membership agreement, facility use policy, and article for a statement of faith.

ERLC President Russell Moore said he is thankful to work with ADF "to produce this resource to help equip churches on how to remain faithful to our mission in a culture that often disagrees with our message."

"Without soul freedom we have no other liberties," Moore said in an ERLC news release. "The church cannot outsource our convictions to the state."

ADF President Alan Sears said his organization is honored to cooperate with Nashville-based ERLC "as fellow servants of churches and Gospel ministers across America who are looking for answers to the challenges against our fundamental freedoms of religion, speech and conscience."

In the ERLC release, Sears described the Southern Baptist



tist entity as "an indispensable champion for religious freedom and human dignity and a strong, steady voice of hope."

The release of the legal manual comes at a time when the expansion of same sex marriage — as well as sexual orientation and gender identity ordinances — has resulted in a growing clash between "sexual liberty" and religious liberty.

Especially in the marriage context, the rights of same sex couples have typically triumphed over the religious freedom of individuals and organizations.

Florists, bakers, photographers and other business owners who have conscientious objections to providing their services for same-sex ceremonies have been penalized by courts or commissions or are facing penalties. The booklet provides several examples of business owners and schools who have been pressured by government entities to violate their religious convictions regarding sexual identity and marriage.

Sexual orientation normally includes homosexuality and bisexuality, while gender identity, or transgender status, refers to what sex a person identifies with, regard-

"[W]e must equip ourselves with the resources available to do ministry in the 21st century without compromising our convictions and the rights to actively maintain those convictions."

Dean Inerra

senior pastor of City Church in Tallahassee, Fla.

less of his or her physiological make-up.

Dean Inerra, senior pastor of City Church in Tallahassee, Fla., said the advance of same sex marriage in particular has resulted in "new waters" for many pastors.

"[W]e must equip ourselves with the resources available to do ministry in the 21st century without compromising our convictions and the rights to actively maintain those convictions," Inerra said in the ERLC release. He is a member of the ERLC's Leadership Council.

The guide may be accessed online without cost at ERLC.com/store.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Mt. Vernon Church, Meridian:** 125th anniversary, June 21; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship.

► **Concord Church, Smith County:** Revival, June 21 - 26; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Hal Daigre, speaker.

► **Singleton Church, Louisville:** Revival, June 21 - 24; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Trent Jaudon, speaker; Lawrence Runnels, pastor.

OFFERING

cont. from p. 1

"God has given His people wealth for the sake of His worship, and I praise Him for how this money will serve as a tool in His hands for the multiplication of the church and the magnification of His name."

The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Birmingham, promotes the offering in partnership with IMB.

"We are grateful for the continued strong financial support and fervent prayers of Southern Baptists for international missions. Praying for our missionaries and giving of our resources to aid in the work of overseas missions is at the heart of who we are in WMU," said Wanda Lee, WMU executive director-treasurer.

"As Southern Baptists learn how God is at work around the world, they give of their resources and offer more informed prayers for those who have committed their lives to following the Great Commission into all the world so the Gospel will be proclaimed among all people."

The offering enables missionaries to go into areas untouched by the Gospel, engage people groups with no believers



FAMILY TIME — In a remote village along the Amazon River in South America, a missionary family whose names and exact location are being withheld sits outside their home to enjoy the cool breeze of late afternoon. The Lottie Moon offering funds their living and ministry expenses. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)

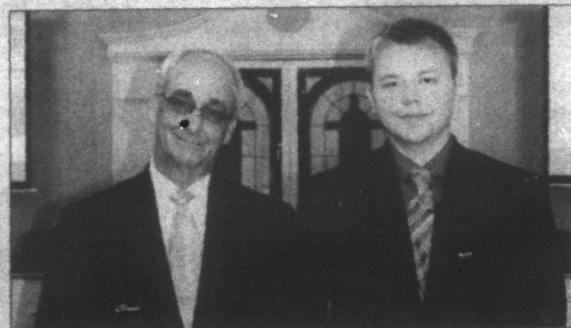
or Scriptures, start churches, and make disciples.

IMB missionaries and their ministry partners communicated the Gospel to more than 1.7 million people, led nearly 275,000 people to faith in Christ, baptized more than 190,000 new believers, and started more than 13,000 churches and many more believer groups that will become churches, according to IMB's

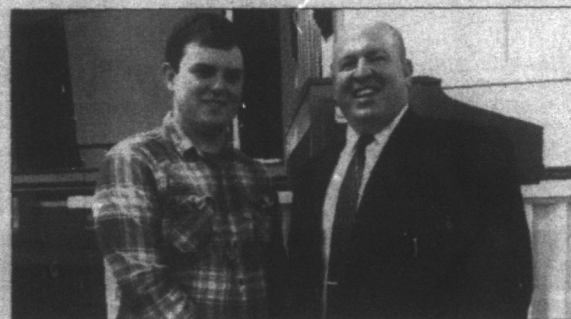
2014 annual statistical report (reflecting 2013 year-end statistics).

Beyond that, trained disciples among 235 people groups engaged their own people inside their countries. Disciples among 62 people groups engaged different groups or cities within their countries and workers representing 26 people groups went beyond their own countries to reach different groups.

Staff Changes



SPRING HILL CHURCH, WATERFORD, has called Tyler Winingham as youth pastor. He is shown with pastor John Parker.



ROBINWOOD CHURCH, SAUCIER, has called Tom Conn as youth minister. He is shown with pastor Terry Upchurch, right.

PRISON

cont. from p. 1

other Americans held captive in Iran during nuclear talks rather than merely mentioning them on the sidelines.

"As I shared in front of our Congress last week, the Iranian government might turn up

the heat in the furnace (as in Daniel 3)," Naghmeh Abedini said on Facebook, "but Saeed refuses to deny his faith in Jesus Christ and continues to be a witness in that dark prison. Jesus is with Saeed in that fiery furnace. He wants you to know that he has felt your prayers in his darkest moments. Thank you."

Abedini has been imprisoned in Iran since Sept. 26, 2012, because of his Christian faith. Arrested while helping build an orphanage in his native country, he was sentenced Jan. 27, 2013, on charges he threatened Iranian national security by planting house churches years earlier.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Dangers to Avoid • 1 John 2:15-27

An old Cherokee was teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil — he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good — he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you — and inside every other person, too." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

How about you and me? Right now, at this very moment, which "wolf" are you feeding? While you may consider the previous illustration a bit out of the ordinary, I would submit to you it is a reasonable depiction of the battle inside us all. The first three verses in our study, (1 John 2:15-17) is as much a warning to the church as it is an indication of the reality of our world today. Speaking of the word "world": Be careful how you interpret and apply its meaning while reading over the lesson.

John uses the Greek word kosmos to designate his intended meaning. Kosmos in this context is referring to the ungodliness that is rampant around us. He is not saying, "Do not love the beauty of creation" or "Do not love the people in the world." Furthermore, it would not make sense if Jesus would have told the disciples: "I have overcome the earth" (John 16:33). Rather,

John is bidding us to take a long, hard look around us and evaluate our appetites and desires.

God the Creator in His infinite wisdom fashioned within each of us good and healthy desires. The desire to enjoy life, laugh, love, sexual relations, have friends, food and a host of others are all good and wholesome within the proper context of what God deems acceptable. Of course, we know we have an enemy in Satan, seeking to satisfy our healthy desires with poison, false hopes, deceptive promises and

lies. This is the "world" in which John is writing. This world full of immorality, sin and depravity is a sickening mess and offers no chance of real peace, joy or contentment. I am convinced Christians will never win the battle against sin until they realize the world is often a hollow place and thoroughly incapable of providing authentic joy or fulfillment. Each time you or I have

sinned, it is the result of us believing a lie or an act of pride. Satan, the father of lies, will lay any trap, sow any negative seed

or place anything before us anything he feels will cause us to stumble. John gives us a sobering reminder in 2:17. The world and all of its lusts are passing away. There is no evil in the world that exists with a lifespan as long as the Eternal Father. The evil in the world will pass away.

If Satan can compromise what we believe about truth, he can get us to

compromise our actions and faithfulness. Those themes are at the heart of 1 John 2:18-23. John wanted the audience to take heed against the evil in the world and to stay committed to Christ and walking in the light. He makes mention of deceivers, defectors, deniers and down-right liars. May it not be true of you and me. Let us be found in the group described in 2:24 and 2:25. We should desire to abide in Christ. In other words: stay put with Jesus. Abiding with Christ means believing He is who He says He is and is able to accomplish through you that He has promised.

There is coming a day soon when those who persevere will be rewarded. When Christ returns will you be rejoicing or be overwhelmed with shame? (2:28) Which wolf are you feeding? My friend, the Holy Spirit is available to give you strength in the face of temptation and evil. I sincerely pray you will begin to starve the evil in your life and nourish the holy. Both wolves will come at your door each day, only you can choose the feeding habits. Be strong in the Lord!

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.

Stick to God's Plan • Joshua 6:1-5, 12-16, 20

We have a couple in our church named Anse and Linda Barber. The Barbers serve the Lord faithfully in their circles of influence and our church, day in and day out. If I listed all the ways they serve, I would run out of word count, so you will have to trust me. I think they arrive to church at 8:03 am every Sunday, eat lunch every day at 12 sharp and I am positive they have never lost a sock in the wash nor lost their car at Wal-Mart parking lot. I think Google calls them when they set electronic clocks! More importantly than being so reliable in their personal lives, they show a consistency and faithfulness to the things of God that is a watermark for everyone.

In the lesson today, the Israelites have learned what consistency looks like. In the book, "The Grave Robber", Pastor Mark Batterson states, "If you follow Jesus long enough and hard enough, you will find yourself right in the middle of a miracle." This certainly holds true for the Israelites. Since the death of Moses, Joshua had been leading them to consistently follow God and His plan for them. And they were about to find themselves in the middle of an amazing miracle—the first one in the Promised Land.

Joshua 6:1-5

Jericho was one of the oldest cities of the world. Some people believe that it was invincible. The Israelites had probably heard stories of the city of Jericho all of their lives. But this chapter begins, not with the Israelites fear of the city but instead, the inhabitants of the city being scared of the Israelites. The gates were locked. No one could come in and no one could go out. The Lord tells Joshua that the enemy has already been defeated.

Joshua 6:12-16

After God gives the instructions to Joshua, Joshua turns around and gives them to the priests. I

love that verse 8 tells us that the priests went forward. They didn't question the leadership from the Lord through Joshua. And let's be honest, this was not the regular marching and fighting orders. They had to wonder what good it would

do to march around a city for six days with only the trumpets blowing. Can't you see the soldiers of Jericho taunting them and hurling insults? "How about that trumpet playing? Think you want to join a band?" or "Your leader is crazy—he got you silently marching around our city? Give me a break!" Part of Joshua's instructions from the Lord included that no one could give a war cry, raise their voice or even to talk. That had to be difficult not to want to yell insults and rude words toward the city. Yet that stuck to God's plan despite their vulnerability by marching

around this fortified city while they were vulnerable to attack. If I had been there, I would have been tempted to think, Now

Joshua, don't you want some soldiers to carry the ark? Especially so close to the walls of Jericho? Or, I would have wanted to send out part of the Israelites to appease God but kept the stronger men back to prepare for the

battle. But, the obedience of the people of God was complete. They did exactly what they were supposed to do. Day after day after day until day seven—when their miracle happened.

Joshua 6:20

The trumpets sounded and the army shouted and the walls came-a-tumbling down. The impossible became possible because of simple obedience. The Lord God handed the Israelites a victory—and it was not in their strength or wisdom. They marched, they rested, they marched, they rested—they simply did what they were supposed to do and let God do what He was supposed to do.

Here are some questions for personal reflection from the lesson:

What is God telling you to do in your personal devotional life to lean in to Him and to be consistent in following Him daily?

What is God telling you to do to that may not make sense from your perspective?

What are you trying to do that only God can do?

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon, and a speaker for women's events.

Bible Studies for Life

with Beth S. Bowman



ROACH

cont. from p.2

two male friends in Greek mythology contributed to acceptance of homosexual relationships in some cities.

■ The second-century Greek writer Ptolemy referenced wom-

en who regarded other women as their wives.

Of course, ancient writings also contain references to homosexual acts that are abusive and violent, and involve minors. In addition, some of the references above were penned after the New Testament was complete. Nonetheless, they refute

the claim of LGBT advocates that adult, monogamous, loving homosexual relationships were unknown in the ancient world.

Even the oft-cited homosexual scholar John Boswell warned against exaggerating the difference between ancient and modern forms of homosexuality in his book titled, Christianity, Social

Tolerance, and Homosexuality.

Ancient references to adult, consensual homosexuality—including same sex marriage—should bolster believers' confidence that Moses, Paul, and other biblical authors would not recoil in surprise as if they had never heard of it. Indeed, there is nothing new under the sun.

Scripture's condemnation of homosexual acts prohibits every form of same sex sexual expression.

Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press in Nashville. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and clarity.

Just for the Record



PINE GROVE CHURCH, MAGEE, commissioned Candace McWilliams as she prepares to serve this summer at Big Creek Missions in Bear Branch, Ky. She is shown with interim pastor Jay Hays.



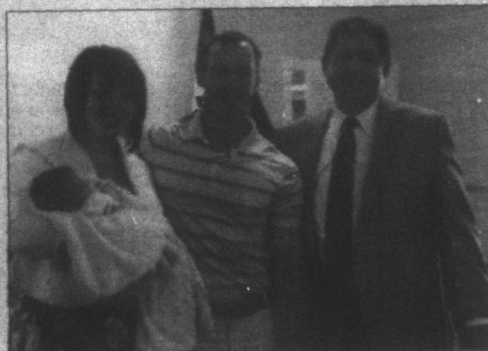
BETHSAIDA CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, recognizes its graduates. Front row: Jacob Sistrunk, Lee Bowen, Aspen White; back row: Haley McFarland, Julie Pierce, and Ellen Belk.



The women's ministry of **FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, ABERDEEN**, participated in a Burden Bear ministry project June 9. The bears are given to people who are going through a difficult time.



GA's from **SILVER CREEK CHURCH, MCCOMB**, delivered food items to the Pike Association Food Pantry. Donna Hart, GA leader.



STEELE CHURCH, SCOTT, recently held a baby dedication. Shown are Ashley, baby Wyatt, and Britt Warren with pastor Joey Smith.



The WMU of **SPRING HILL CHURCH, WATERFORD**, honored the church's senior ladies recently with a brunch.



ETHEL CHURCH, ETHEL, honored its graduates recently. Shown are high school graduates Dylan Shaw, Jake Simmons, Jarod Wilson, Jakob Wilson, with pastor Ralph Hunt; and college graduates Kelley McKinney, Brian Felton, Allen Hearon, and Hunt.



EVANSVILLE CHURCH, COLDWATER, hosted this quarters Women's Ministry Meeting June 6. Chrystelle Thames, Baptist Children's Village, guest speaker.



NEW HOPE CHURCH, TUPELO, held baby dedication for Avery Hill, shown with his parents Amy and Adam Hill and pastor Lowell Johnson. Avery has one brother, Eli.



Children from **OLD TOWN CHURCH, PITTSBORO**, attended Central Hills Baptist Retreat June 1 - 3. Cody and Ashley Clements, chaperones.

In other Church News:

► **Neshoba Church, Union**, will observe Baptist Men's Day June 21 with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and an all-men's choir in morning worship.



FIRST CHURCH, CLEVELAND, recognized James Walker, minister of education and administration, for five years of service. Shown are pastor Brad Beckwith with Walker and his family, Jennifer, Abigail, and Nathan.